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Press Release - For Immediate Release

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Francestown to Host Informational Session Regarding Regional Planning Commissions

The Francestown Board of Selectmen is considering changing regions for the purposes of identifying with a regional planning commission and has scheduled a public informational session for December 10th at 7:00 p.m. The session will include presentations from the executive directors of the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) and the Southern NH Regional Planning Commission about their organizations and regions.

The Town of Francestown is currently located on the edge of the Southwest Region, which includes 35 towns and runs from Francestown essentially northwest to the Vermont border and south to the Massachusetts border. Francestown shares a border with Weare and New Boston, which are located in the Southern Region; the Southern region contains 14 towns in the south-central part of the state. Francestown has not been a dues paying member of SWRPC since approximately 2009 and is considering resuming paying dues to a planning commission. To change regions, the Board of Selectmen must petition the NH Office of Energy and Planning.

Board of Selectmen Chair Betsy Hardwick stated, "I feel it is important to have a conversation with the community about which region they feel is the best fit for Francestown and I think this informational session is a great way to start that process. I am looking forward to the presentations from both of these professional organizations and hope we see a great turnout from our town officials and the general public."

Regional planning commissions are created by state statute with the goal of providing professional services to communities in a variety of subjects. These services include, but are not limited to, assistance with land use and planning, emergency management, grants, and regionalization.

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